

Abstract of the Disclosure

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The invention provides a method and system for auto-detection of communication mismatch, such as in a networking environment. A device using a communication protocol uses a technique for protocol augmentation to determine sufficient information about whether there is a protocol parameter mismatch, and to determine how to adjust its protocol parameters so that the parameter mismatch is obviated. In a preferred embodiment, the protocol includes an Ethernet protocol, and the mismatch includes information about whether devices at ends of a communication link are using half-duplex or full-duplex settings. A first device using the Ethernet generates messages that force a set of second devices using the same Ethernet to generate responsive messages to send to the first device; the first device determines, by examining features of the responsive messages from the second devices, what protocol settings the second devices are using. With this information, the first device can adjust its protocol parameter settings to match the second device.